

JUST CHRISTIANS



BY
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People today can be just Christians!! That may sound strange in our divided religious world. How is it possible to be just Christians?

Followers of Christ were first called disciples *Acts 6.7: "And the word of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly."* When the word of God is proclaimed to people of honest hearts, the result is always disciples. We must return to discipleship in our churches....

Later the followers of the resurrected Jesus were called "*those of the way.*" (*Acts 9.2.*) The followers had a discipline, a road, a "way" to travel. Following Christ demands a "way of life." Simply claiming to be a follower does not make an individual one.

There is a plan, a creed, a discipline, a doctrine to be followed if we are to be His disciple. We believe this “way” to be found only in the Bible. It must be our only creed. *Acts 11.26* says, “*And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*” The word Christian means “*One who follows,*” or “*One who belongs to.*” A Christian then is one who follows or belongs to Christ. Yes, it is possible to be just Christians today. The basis is simple: “Are we truly following Christ?” “Do we belong to Christ?” If so, we are Christians.

How To Be Just Christians

Jesus told Nicodemus in *John 3.7*, “*Ye must be born again.*” The only “way” or plan to be followed is God’s “way” (God’s Plan) for salvation. That way is simple.

(1) We must acknowledge our sins. We are sinners. There is no chance to be saved until this condition is admitted. “*There is none righteous, no not one.*” “*For all have*

sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3.10, 23.) “For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6.23.) We must not trust in our feelings, in the advice of our neighbors; but trust only in the Word of God. Are we willing?

(2) We must believe in Him. *“Without faith it is impossible to please him. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 6.11.)*

(3) Our faith must cause us to repent. Repentance is a difficult command to obey. But Jesus said, *“Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13.3.)* Peter on Pentecost answered those who had killed “The Christ”: *“Repent and be baptized.” (Acts 2.38.)* Then in Acts 3:19, he says *“Repent and be converted.”* Diligently seeking God means that we must be willing to turn from our life of sin and serving self and turn (Repent) and serve Him.

(4) Jesus insisted upon a confession. He said, *“If you will confess me before men, I will confess you before my father.”* (Matthew 10.32.) Being a disciple demands a confession. Too many today call themselves Christians, but by their confession it is obvious they are not. *Romans 10.9* tells us that *“with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

(5) Sins are forgiven in baptism. Baptism is not for church membership; it is not because we are already saved; it is not to satisfy family or friends. Baptism is for the remission of sins. (Acts 2.38.) Peter said two things were required before sins could be remitted and the Holy Spirit could be given: (1) Repent and (2) Be baptized. Paul in relating the events surrounding his conversion experience in Acts 22 made this statement concerning his baptism. *“And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22.16.)

“We are buried with him by baptism into death: That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For as we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Romans 6.4-6.)

Will you be born again? Realize we are all sinners, believe in God and the sacrifice of His son. Diligently seek Him through repentance and confess His name and put the old man of sin to death and be raised to a new life through baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Why Not Be Just A Christian???



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*Published by Gospel Tracts International
A Ministry of Baldwin Church of Christ, U.S.A.*